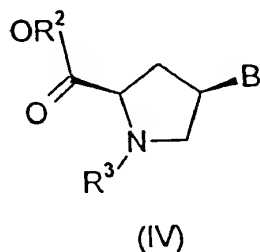


15. (Amended) A compound of formula (IV)



where R^2 is H or a protecting group,

R^3 is H or a protecting group compatible with R^2 , and

B is a protected or unprotected heterocyclic base capable of Watson-Crick or Hoogsteen pairing.

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17. (Amended) A compound as claimed in Claim 15, wherein B is a protected or unprotected nucleobase selected from adenine, cytosine, guanine, thymine and uracil.

Please add the following claim:

- A5
20. A method of making a compound of formula (V) which method comprises converting a diphenylmethyl ester of N-t-butyloxycarbonyl-cis-r-hydroxy-D-proline by a Mitsunobu reaction in the presence of formic acid to give an inverted formate ester which